

Remarks

The Notice of Non-compliant Amended mailed November 14, 2008 has been carefully reviewed and this paper is Applicants response thereto. Claims 1-8, 11-12, 14-17, and 21-23 have been allowed. Claim 18 stands rejected under 35 USC §102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,597,954 to Pless, et al. ("Pless"). Applicants note that this response is essentially identical to the prior response filed on July 30, 2008, except for the amendment to the status of the claims.

Corrected Claim Status Identifiers

The status identifier for claim 1 has been corrected to read "(Previously Presented)," and the added word "the" in claim 1, limitation (c), which was in essence a typographical error, has been removed. Applicants appreciate the indication of this informality and believe the above amendments to the Listing of Claims bring this paper into compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.121.

Allowed Claims

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 1-8, 11-12, 14-17, and 21-23 have been allowed.

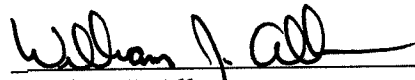
Rejections

In this response, Applicants have amended independent claim 18 as suggested by the Examiner. No new matter was added. Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 18 is now in condition for allowance. Dependent claims 19-20 which ultimately depend from independent claim 18 are allowable for at least the same reason as independent claim 18.

All rejections having been addressed, Applicants respectfully submit that the instant application is in condition for allowance. If any matters can be addressed via telephone, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number provided below.

Date: January 5, 2009

Respectfully submitted,



William J. Allen

Registration No. 51,393

BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD.

Ten S. Wacker Drive

Suite 3000

Chicago, IL 60606-7407

Telephone: 312-463-5000

Facsimile: 312-463-5001